



ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 2

DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation

*WORKSHOP ON
COUNTRY PROGRAMME
EVALUATIONS*

PROGRESS REPORT

**Submitted by
Austria**

**31st Meeting
27-28 January 1999**

Workshop on Country Programme Evaluations

Progress Report

Considerable progress has been made by the Steering Group and the DAC-Secretariat in preparing the workshop on Country Programme Evaluations, which will be hosted by Austria, on 11-12 March 1999. This note is to inform the Members of the Working Party on Aid Evaluation about the state of advancement of the work.

1. Case Studies

All earlier commitments have been confirmed. At present, we have the following commitments:

- Switzerland - Tanzania
- France - interest confirmed, country or thematic input to be defined
- Finland - Nicaragua
- Netherlands - Bangladesh
- World Bank - Philippines
- European Commission - Eastern European transition economy - country to be decided
- Germany - thematic input “Country Assistance Strategies as a Management and Evaluation Instrument for Donors: Some Conclusions Drawn from German Experience”

Those Members who have confirmed their commitments, but have not yet defined their inputs, will be asked to do so at the Steering Group Meeting on 28 January 1999. Germany has provided a one-page outline for the paper it is preparing, and other members may wish to do the same for their papers.

Contributing Members were invited to start work on a short paper (10-15 pages) on 6 November 1998. Members have been asked to finalise their papers by 10 February 1999, integrating as many of the dimensions of the key workshop themes as possible according to their experiences (see below).

These papers will be part of the preparatory package which will be sent to workshop participants and form the background material for discussions. They will also be part of the workshop report.

2. Desk Review Paper

In order to provide an overview of developments in country programme evaluations since 1994 and set in context the individual country case studies which will be presented at the workshop, the Secretariat has commissioned Mr. Simon Maxwell (Overseas Development Institute) to prepare a background paper. This paper will be part of the information package to be distributed prior to the workshop.

The United Kingdom and Netherlands have funded the desk review paper and Mr. Maxwell's participation in the workshop, as well as some follow-on work.

3. Key Workshop Themes

The following themes were defined by Members for discussion at the workshop:

1. How can CPEs be designed so as to ensure linkage with *21st Century Partnership Strategy* goals?
2. How can development effectiveness and impact be defined and measured at the country level?
3. How can CPEs take into account the effects of the external environment on development effectiveness at the country level?
4. What methodologies and evaluation criteria are relevant/useful in CPEs?
5. How are CPE findings taken into account by recipient countries and donors in adjusting development strategies and donor-supported programmes?
6. How can the effective involvement of partner country officials and beneficiaries be ensured given prevailing donor needs and requirements for accountability and professional evaluation standards?
7. How can more effective co-operation in programming, implementing CPEs and sharing information on results be achieved among donors?

4. Structure of Workshop

The workshop programme will be structured around the key themes, and most likely divided into five modules of 1 and 1/2 hours. The intention is to have a balance between plenary modules and parallel discussion in groups.

The discussion in each module will start with a steering group member introducing and presenting relevant experience in the theme under consideration. The underlying idea is to give ample space for a variety of approaches and experiences.

It is proposed to have a thematic approach rather than presentations of full cases one after the other. This will allow for a more structured approach to the discussion and enable cross-fertilisation of experiences.

5. Participation

It will be important to include participants from developing countries. Therefore, Members who present and prepare case studies were asked to invite partner countries (a maximum of three persons), keeping in mind the need for a gender balance. Other delegations would be composed of two to three persons maximum, including possible developing country participation. Bearing in mind the intended participatory structure of the workshop, it was suggested to limit the number of participants to about 60.

The World Bank will sponsor the participation of Mr. Marc Lindenberg as a resource person.

6. Time and place

The workshop will take place on 11 and 12 March 1999 in Vienna. It has been planned to have a full working day on Thursday, implying that members should arrive Wednesday evening. The workshop will terminate on Friday at 4 p.m. Austria would gladly prepare suggestions for an informal social programme on Friday evening and Saturday, if participants desire it.

At the Working Party Meeting a provisional attendance list will be circulated to facilitate accommodation arrangements. The definite booking will have to be effected directly by participants with:

Schloß Wilhelminenberg,
A 1160 Wien,
Savoyenstraße 2
Tel (01) 485 85 03
Fax (01) 485 48 76

We are looking forward to the workshop and hope that the results will be fruitful for all of us.